Public Health gets the usual provision for continuing its activities while enhanced provisions have been made under Ayurveda for the opening of four more Ayurvedic hospitals and six new Vaidyasalas. According to the wishes expressed in the council a full-fledged hospital with an inpatient ward of a few beds will be soon opened at Ernakulam. At Vilvattam a new Vaidyasala is proposed to be started for running which Sir K. Ravunny Menon has offered a donation of Rs. 10,000. The donation of Sir K. Ravunny Menon for this Vaidyasala, of Mr. Kattakayom for the new Ward at Chalakkudi are examples worthy of emulation by all who can afford it. The manufacture of medicines and their sale in the Rama Varma Central Ayurvedic Hospital is becoming a very popular measure.

*Public works.*—The Public Works department gets an enhanced allotment of Rs. 4·19 lakhs over the revised estimate of Rs. 13·55 lakhs and various works of public utility have been programmed for the next year. Due to the increased cost of materials and labour it has been found impossible to maintain the roads satisfactorily with the usual allotments and hence an increased provision of Rs. 1·80 lakhs has been made under road maintenance. Liberal provisions have been made under Irrigation Original Works-with a view to stimulate food production-the more important of which are the Kambalathara Reservoir, the bunds in Elamkulam, Protection of Kari Nilams in Amballur and Keecheri Villages, the Puthur river diversion scheme, the Vettuveli Bund and the Lift Irrigation scheme at Desamangalam. A sum of Rs. 0·75 lakh has been allotted for continuing the work of constructing groynes in the coastal area for prevention of sea erosions. A provision of over Rs. 1 lakh has also been made for the construction of an additional tank in Ernakulam for the storage of Alwaye water. A small beginning was made in 1118 to provide play grounds in schools and in continuance of this programme an increased allotment of Rs. ·30 lakh has been made in the next year's budget.

*Panchayats.*—As adverted to by the Hon'ble the Minister in the last budget session and in furtherance of the Village Courts Bill passed by this House, the Panchayat courts have been separated from the department of Panchayats and constituted under a separate head of department designated as Registrar of Village Courts. Provision has been made for constituting more courts next year and with their constitution all the Villages of the State outside Municipal limits will be under the jurisdiction of one Village Court or other. It can be hoped that these courts will be of useful service to our village folks.

In spite of the transfer of these courts to a different head of account costing Rs. 0·50 lakh, the Panchayat department has been given the usual allotment of Rs. 4·04 lakhs. A special contribution of Rs. 1·85 lakhs has been given from the Revenue Reserve Fund mostly for the continuance of the intensive programme of 'irrigation' begun last year and this contribution has been made non-lapsable as in previous years. The Panchayats have generally been allowed to carry out all the works departmentally and adequate advances are also given to them for this purpose. It is up to them now to make best use of the lump allotments and the increased facilities now given to them to the lasting benefit of the villagers entrusted to their stewardship.

## Socio-Economic Services

Passing on, I now come to the Socio-economic services like Co-operation, and Uplift of the depressed classes. Of Co-operation I have already spoken and there remains Uplift of the depressed classes. Though the budget estimate for the current year was fixed at Rs. 0·71 lakh, the revised estimate rose to Rs. 0·81 lakh and and we have budgetted for the coming year Rs. 0·89 lakh. More scholarships for students from depressed classes have been provided for their collegiate education; again, a sum of Rs. 5,000 has been provided out of the special contribution from Revenue Reserve Fund for development of cottage industries in depressed classes colonies. The usual provisions are made for colonies and educational services.

## Collection Services

There is not much for me to dilate upon the provisions made under what is known as "Collection services" *viz.* Land Revenue, Excise, Customs, Forests and Tramway, Registration, Anchal, Stamps and Income-tax. The prospect of local manufacture of salt which was under investigation by a late officer of the Madras salt department has been found to be hopeful and a lump provision of Rs. 0·60 lakh has been made for working out the scheme the details of which will be expounded by the member for Excise when his turn comes. Anchal rates have been slightly raised and this is expected to bring some additional income. The growing volume of work in the Income-tax department as reflected in the larger receipts, etc., has, as has been already indicated by me elsewhere, necessitated the organisation of a new Income-tax office with an officer on Rs. 150—200 and the necessary staff. The high income anticipated from the department may necessitate larger refunds which mainly account for the increase in the budget

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estimate of Rs. 2·89 lakhs against the revised estimate of Rs. 2·33 lakhs. The large increase of Rs. 1·94 lakhs under Forests and Tramway over the revised estimate of Rs. 6·48 lakhs has been rendered necessary on account of the proposed extraction and transport of a much larger quantity of timber than in the current year. The strengthening of the taluk and treasury establishments of the Land Revenue department, the organisation of a Survey School, the deputation of a hand or advanced survey training in British India, etc., have all been dealt with in the Memorandum in your hands.

## Law and order services

Let me now pass on to the Law and Order Services—Law and Justice, Jails, Police and Military. The surging wave of unrest in British India in August last had its repercussions in the State also and all these departmets had their hands full as a consequence. Even though the conditions have now become normal, its effects are still partially reflected in the budget before you.

*Law and Justice.*—Two special Magistrates with first class powers had to be appointed in the course of the year to try the numerous cases under the Defence of India rules, etc., and they are to continue for part of next year.

*Police.*—Under Police the budget estimate for the current year was only Rs. 3·06 lakhs: in the revised estimate it rose to Rs. 3·19 lakhs and for the coming year it is fixed at Rs. 3·72 lakhs *i.e.*, Rs. 0·53 lakh more than the revised estimate. The large temporary force has to be continued further; a reallocation of the several grades of the force was effected in the course of the year. Besides the dearness allowance granted to them as in other departments, it is proposed to give the Police force a war allowance at the rate of Rs. 1—8—0 for each and hence the provision of Rs. 0·14 lakh. The higher cost of clothing, etc., for uniforms also accounts for the increase.

*Jails.*—The continuance of the existing temporary establishment of the deputy jailor, warders, etc., is found necessary as the prison population is still large. The rise in the number of prisoners and the high prices of food stuffs and clothing have necessitated larger provisions under Diet of Prisoners and Clothing and Bedding. The agricultural operations started this year in the Jail under the supervision of an officer deputed from the Agricultural department are to continue.

*Military.*—On the reorganisation of the Military I have spoken elsewhere. The strengthening of the force, the intensive training being given to them to make them effective units in times of necessity, the formation of a new cosmopolitan unit thrown open to all classes, etc., all these form the important features of the budget estimate.

## Administrative Services

Passing on, I now come to the departments like General Administration, Finance and Accounts, Palace and Miscellaneous.

*General Administration.*—As compared with the revised estimate (Rs. 2·36 lakhs) the budget for the coming year anticipates an increase of Rs. 0·53 lakh of which the Huzur Secretariat accounts for an increase of Rs. 0·23 lakh owing to the larger provision for Printing Charges, and the large temporary establishments of two Superintendents, and clerks who had to be entertained to meet the larger volume of work brought about by the war and civil supplies. There is provision of Rs. 0·30 lakh under State Loan for various items of expenditure connected with the floatation of the new Conversion Loan to which I shall come immediately.

*Finance and Accounts.*—Except for the continuance of the two temporary local audit divisions and of the leave reserve staff and the new provision for a stock-taking Officer with staff for verification of the stock of medicines in the Central Stores of the Medical Department no special features are provided in this department.

*Miscellaneous.*—Under this has been included all sundry items of expenditure that have had to be incurred to meet the present crisis and they include such divergent items as A.R.P., War Publicity, National War Front, Civil Supplies, Evacuation, Hill Paddy, etc. The temporary establishments that have had to be created to meet the present emergencies are indeed numerous. Police and Military for defence measures have 278 employees, the Civil Supplies department excluding audit has 717 hands, Price Control establishment of the Excise department has 88, the grain purchase staff number 175, the War Publicity and National War Front have 33 hands; and the A.R.P. both divisions employ 571 persons. It is however consoling that the present crisis has given employment to such a large number of persons; but the problem of their further employment on the termination of the present emergencies will indeed be a taxing one. This is however only a problem for the future.

Coming now to the subject proper I have not much comment to make as the figures explain themselves; the A. R. P. and allied measures are continued, but, the

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